



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

October 26, 2010

Minutes

Mayor Wright called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach
Councilor Casasanta
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Klett - absent
Councilor Lenares
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Council Nasinnyk
Mayor Wright

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Dr. Collins, Superintendent of Schools
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager
Mary Richard, Council Clerk

III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Teacher of the Year – Rob Miller

Mayor Wright read the Proclamation and invited Mr. Robert C. Miller to accept the award.

WHEREAS, Robert C. Miller, a mathematics teacher at Newington High School, has been designated as Newington's 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller was selected based upon his exceptional skill and dedication to children and the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller is intelligent, a strong communicator, an advocate for all students, and a strong believer that public education is the vehicle to prepare all children for participation in our society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education from Central Connecticut State University in 2001, and has completed numerous Graduate Level Mathematics and Education classes at Central Connecticut State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller began teaching at Newington High School in 2001 and has brought the Advanced Placement Calculus program to all time high levels and as a coach, has transformed the school's math team from a last place finisher to a division champion, and state and New England competition qualifier; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller has integrated technology into his classroom, and has revolutionized the way he communicates with students and their parents through use of his own website that is accessible through the school's webpage; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Miller is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut, and the Newington Teachers Association, has designed and presented numerous professional development workshops, has been nominated for the Outstanding Young Educator Award, and has appeared in the Who's Who Among American Teachers ; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Robert C. Miller as Newington's Teacher of the Year and extends its sincerest congratulations and appreciation to him for his dedication and commitment to Newington's children.

Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 26th day of October, 2010.

MOTION BY: Mayor Wright
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

Mayor Wright stated that he is very proud to present this award to Mr. Miller, and he will soon be on the wall of great teachers, where there were many great teachers before and will be many after, and the fact that Mr. Miller got to this point so quickly speaks volumes about his style and at this day and age the need for mathematics and science teachers is greater than ever, and the fact that Mr. Miller has this commitment to mathematics and helping our kids get to the next level is fantastic, so thank you for all your hard work.

Councilor Nasinnyk said she personally wanted to thank Mr. Miller for what he has done for the students and our Town and the Public Education system. In thinking back she remembered something called the slide rule and he, being here today is representing not only himself but also all the teachers in Newington who are so superior which made the education system what it is, it's his enthusiasm and dedication and she thanked him very much. Councilor McBride also congratulated Mr. Miller on his dedication, especially in a field like mathematics, and a lot of people need someone who can communicate and relate to them and Mr. Miller's achievements and mathematics team suggests that children will not only learn when required to but that it's molded in a fun way to learn.

Councilor Cohen said that she believes that to have a teacher of mathematics in our system who is pushing it forward like this is great for Newington and our high school and she thanked Mr. Miller very much. Councilor Banach said that skill and dedication are the two most important words and Mr. Miller's dedication is truly what's needed and he speaks also on a more personal level with two of his children who have been recipients of Mr. Miller's dedication, and thanked Mr. Miller for his pursuit of excellence.

Councilor Nagel congratulated Mr. Miller on his achievement and having heard about what Mr. Miller has accomplished with key things and math is one of the things where you have a specific answer and the answer is finding creative ways in which to engage the students. Councilor Casasanta said that with his background, what Mr. Miller has accomplished with his students does add up to Teacher of the Year. (a little math pun) She congratulated him and feels that we, the Town are very fortunate to have Mr. Miller in our system. Councilor Lenares said that we all appreciate Mr. Miller's hard work and dedication and to keep up the good work, and thanked Mr. Miller for his contribution to our school system.

Dr. Collins thanked the Town Council for taking the time each year to recognize the Teacher of the Year. One thing Dr. Collins noted about Mr. Miller is his dedication and commitment to students and to make sure that each student is challenged appropriately. He went on to say that our system has grown our Advanced Placement Program over the last several years from less than 100 kids to several hundred kids and our highest level math class was Calculus AB and Mr. Miller said that he believed that our kids could be challenged even further and he proposed an Advanced Placement Calculus BC which is an even higher level so we went from offering one section of Calculus to several different higher level sections. So our kids have really benefitted from this program and Mr. Miller is to be commended for that and thanked Mr. Miller and he, Mr. Miller, will be recognized again at the Board function.

Remarks from the Public

Mady Kenney, 53 Crestview Drive said that she doesn't know Mr. Miller and he doesn't know her but she wanted to thank Mr. Miller for all he has done for the children of Newington and for the influence he has had and she

thanked the people of this Town and the Board of Education for their foresight in hiring someone of his caliber and other teacher like him.

Mr. Robert C. Miller thanked everyone for their comments and said that he is very appreciative of this award and if getting this award for what I do helps others he thought a little embarrassment is well worth it. He said that he couldn't do what he does without the support that the Board and Council, Administrators and Teachers give and any ideas that he has had they've allowed me to give it a try, and lot have worked and that couldn't have happened without all that support so some credit should go to all these others. He thanked everyone for the recognition.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

Mayor Wright announced the phone number for those at home who wished to participate – 860-665-8736.

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Waverly Drive Street Acceptance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council, following a Public Hearing held on October 26, 2010 hereby accepts Waverly Drive as a Town road, conditioned on the developer's satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

- 1. Corrections of any defects as determined by the Town Engineer,**
- 2. Submission of two sets of "as built" street plans and profile mylars for recording and certification of merestone placement,**
- 3. Warranty deed for roadway extension and drainage easement, if applicable,**
- 4. Maintenance Bond, amount to be determined by the Town Manager, for one (1) year from date of acceptance.**

This acceptance is to take effect following the certification by the Town Engineer on the condition of the road and the written acceptance by the Town Manager.

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta

SECONDED BY: Councilor Lenares

VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

Councilor Nagel corrected the reading of the word "defects" in line 1 of the Resolution

Councilor Cohen asked Mr. Salomone if the list of conditions on the resolution isn't usually done before we approve rather than having the approval based on different conditions. Mr. Salomone said that all this has already been taken care of but they're still put in as a matter of fact in case there are any defects that occur, so we cover ourselves because we have a one year bond incurred that is the responsibility still of the owner of the street. Councilor Banach asked that with the one year bond if six months later something happens, i.e. massive cracks, does this allow the Town Engineer to go out and perform a second inspection and say that we need to correct it; do we have a years time? Mr. Salomone said that's correct and if anything crops up in the year then we can the bond and make those corrections. We have a year grace period after we accept.

Councilor Nasinnyk questioned the only signature on the Petition for Street Acceptance. Mr. Salomone said that that's actually the developer and not an owner. Councilor Cohen asked if we could have the name typed out in the future, we have no idea what that signature is.

B. Sale of town-Owner Land to the State: Milk Lane

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has expressed interest in purchasing a 1,560 square foot parcel of Town owned property located adjacent to the easterly side of the Newington Highway Department yard on Milk Lane; and

WHEREAS, the State has offered a purchase price of \$6,900 for said property; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newington's Assessor has reviewed the offer and found it to be reasonable; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Plan and Zoning Commission's 8-24 Referral report to the Town Council expressed unanimous approval to report to the Town Council favorable support for the conveyance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for the sale of the 1,560 square foot parcel of Town owned property located adjacent to the easterly side of the Newington Highway Department yard on Milk Lane to the State of Connecticut for the sum of \$6,900.

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor Banach
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

VI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS – NONE

VII TAX REFUNDS

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$4,068.31 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

VIII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting, October 12, 2010

Councilor Cohen noted on Page 5, first line, the word ‘dialect’ should read “**dialogue**”

Councilor Nasinnyk thanked the Council Clerk for the excellent job done on these minutes, with all the changes and corrections.

Councilor Lenares moved to accept the minutes with correction. Seconded by Councilor Cohen.
Vote 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

IX WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

Mr. Salomone said he has been attending the meetings for the CRCOG pertaining to the solid waste discussions and are following closely and CRRA will be giving a formal number to all towns by the end of December and at that point the Town will be in a good position to make a decision on what the future tipping fees and whether we'll stay with CRRA or not.

X COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel went to the CRCOG policy board meeting and a note specifically to Newington, a report was given by the Police Chief of Manchester involving the tragic circumstances that happened at the distributing plant in Manchester which resulted in several people being killed and how he appreciated several towns, specifically the Town of Newington, the Police Department, and the Emergency Mobile Unit for their quick response and should be applauded for what they did under those circumstances. Also at that meeting the Candidates for Lt. Governor met at different times with the group saying how they handle different things in area towns.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that the BALF Committee met and this is the first time BALF had a summer with no blasting, they have applied for two blasting permits in November but the request for gravel is down quite a bit. She was also at a Library Board meeting and they are diligently searching for a new Library Director and interviews will be starting soon.

Councilor McBride said that the Downtown Revitalization Committee met a couple of weeks ago and the next meeting will be on November 15 at 5:30 PM. He said that they are making good progress, purposefully moving ahead very slowly to give the Town, the business owners and property owners plenty of opportunity to come to meetings. He said the last meeting was fantastic, with a lot of people listening with some really good input and he invited everyone to this next meeting. Councilor Cohen added that there will be a work session with the downtown business people in order to gather input from them.

XI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Mady Kenney, 53 Crestview Drive reminded everyone of the need for food for the food pantry, and on Election Day, please to bring an item for donation.

XII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Nasinnyk brought to the attention of the Councilors of the survey on their counters and she asks that it be returned to her by November 9th at our next Council Meeting.

Councilor Nagel said that he recently drove through the New Meadows area and there are signs pointing to where the construction trucks should go, this afternoon there was a fence up and looks like a connection for electricity but he didn't see any digging so far.

Councilor Casasanta reminded everyone of Tuesday, Election Day and she hopes that everyone will get out and exercise their right vote.

Mayor Wright noted that there will be a downtown trick or treat event for the kids on Thursday, Oct. 28th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM and encouraged everyone to come down and participate. Also he reminded everyone of Election Day, polls are open from 6 AM to 8 PM.

XIII ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wright moved to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Seconded by Councilor Lenares. Vote 8 - 0 Councilor Klett absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Richard
Clerk of the Council